1/31/72

dear dick,

enjoyed the non-lattimer part of your 1/25 much and appreciate the help on him. with reduced capacity from chopped thumb, which is now infected, ecery bit helps. i will put the good loop in the file i have on him. he will be writing, but not soon, according to a letter i got from him today. my immediate needs are not literary. i have more than enough for that.

my respect for wecht is at least as great as yours and i heard that long john show, which is better than reading it, which i have also done. the problem is in part that not one of you has thought this thing through. i a, not going to take time to argue it, and he has refused to even ask about it. with many other things, tjis is more than i need to tell me that he is, without intending or realizing it, off on what the kids call an ego trip. i can see no real possibility of it advancing our knowledge in any meaningful way and i do visialize a number of possible liabilities, particularly political, so obvious to those hep to current (non-party) politics that i didn't have to argue with the zenator friend with whom i discussed it before lattimer. marshall's promise to him, by the way, is directly opposite what he has since done. and I have to ask about that, with no immediate and persuasive answer other than pressure.

i can not do much typing in this condition, so i restrict myself to one thing before going to pick my wife up. there are similarities and differences in our reactions to injury, i suppose in part due to the nature of our recent existence, which has persuaded me that publication is never likely, meaningful help improbable, and that i will in any event come close enough to doing what i have set out to do. so, when i was aware that i hurt myself, if any such thoughts existed, i do not remember them. instead of getting seared and rushing, i uttered some conversational-tone or lower-level curse, then told bob smith, who reacted so little he did not know what had happened, then took the leather glove off so it could bleed healthily, put that surface of the thumb in my mouth when i got to the house not to bleed on the floor or scare my wife. i picked up the machete after putting it down to remove the glove, asked smith to take the saw, follow me, then put it anywhere out of the weather, placed the machete back in the rack-place for it in the carport, all at a walk. fibding my wife in her office rather than the kitchen, i let the thing bleed while letting water run on it, asked her to bring me a compress but not to worry, that i had no bad injury, while she was getting that, asked her to get me a clean washcloth, and when she brought them to me hid the thumb so she would not see it and then told her that while the cut was not bad, i had better go to the hospital. i asked her to phone the hosp., it being a sat. evening, which also had the benefit of getting her away, applied the compress after a quick rinse, then, having first folded the washcloth into a width of about 2 inches, i wrapped it around the thumb over the compress, tightly, got my jacket on while holding the rag tightly in place with that forefinger, and went to the hospital, all without any rush. i must have moced my thumb to be sure i had not damaged the bone, but do not recall that. i do recall telling the doctor i could move the joint without pain before he looked at it. not only did i feel no need to rush, but i suppose i had a subconscious realization that anything like that would worry lil. when i saw that i would be some time, i had bob phone her to tell her that examination showed nothing serious so she would not worry about the delay i knew would follow, awaiting my turn at the x-raying (2 hours more, after the suturing!). them when we got home, we each ate well. what still baffles me is that i have not to this moment had any serious pain. i know there is nerve damage i am told will knit. tendon is amatter time will determine, and it is never in my mind... i guess i just worry about other things....wish i had time for more, but unless i have been able to frustrate, and if i did it is not by influence or power, lattimer is only the beginning. the bext planned step, of which i have known since before lattimer saw anything, is overdue. frankly, except for the possibilities for ultimate damage, more from cyril than nichols because of the difference in their stature, the more of these stupidities they pull, the better for us in the long pull. thanks for the good studd. best,